

As requested by the CAG, following is a summary of what kind of information will be in the Lower Eight Miles of the Lower Passaic River Remedial Investigation (RI) and Focused Feasibility Study (FFS) reports and what will not be in the reports, taking into account that these documents are still in preparation. Additional detail can be found in the attached tables of contents. If there are questions about specific information not included below, please call (212-637-4427) or e-mail ([yeh.alice@epa.gov](mailto:yeh.alice@epa.gov)) Alice Yeh.

What will be in the RI Report (see also table of contents):

- The kind of data we are using to evaluate conditions in the FFS Study Area
- How people and biota are using the FFS Study Area
- The level of contamination in the FFS Study Area
- Generally, where the contamination comes from
- How the contamination moves in the river system
- How the contamination affects human health and ecological health
- Whether the risks to human and ecological health are great enough to support taking an action to address the sediments of the FFS Study Area
- Why EPA is proposing to take action in the lower eight miles before the RI/FS for the 17-mile Lower Passaic River Study Area has been completed

What will be in the FFS Report (see also table of contents):

- The goals of the FFS Study Area cleanup (in words)
- How much contaminant levels have to be reduced in biota tissue and in sediments to meet those goals
- The kinds of technologies that can and cannot be implemented to clean up the FFS Study Area sediments
- Whether and how the technologies could be combined to achieve the cleanup goals (development of alternatives)
- How the remedial alternatives were programmed into the model to predict future surface sediment concentrations after remediation
- An analysis of how each alternative meets or doesn't meet the 9 criteria.
- A comparison of the alternatives to each other under the 9 criteria.

What information will NOT be in the RI or FFS (this is not intended to be an exhaustive list):

- Final choice of technology to be implemented. For e.g.,

- Mechanical dredging is selected for cost estimation purposes, although some cost information for hydraulic dredging is also presented. Final choice of mechanical or hydraulic dredging will be made in design.
- Mechanical plate filter presses were selected for cost estimation purposes, but final choice of technology (filter presses vs. geotubes vs. others) will be made in design, if dewatering is part of the selected remedy.
- Two decontamination technologies (thermal treatment and sediment washing) are evaluated for cost estimation purposes, but final choice of exact technology will be made in design, if decontamination is part of the selected remedy.
- Location of upland processing facility (if this is part of the selected remedy)
- Location of final disposal facility
  - A potential contained aquatic disposal (CAD) cell location is shown for cost estimation purposes, but the final location for a CAD (if part of the selected remedy) will be sited in design.
  - Locations of off-site incinerators and landfills will not be chosen until contracts are bid for remedy construction.
- Location of dredged material transportation routes (water or land)
- How deep dredging will go, how thick the cap will be and what the cap material will be
  - Dredging depths and cap thicknesses are estimated for cost estimation purposes, but exact depths and thicknesses will be determined in design.
  - A cap made of sand is assumed for cost estimation purposes, but the exact material of the cap and potential use of enhanced capping technologies will be evaluated during design.
- Exact measures that will be taken to protect the communities and workers impacted by remedial construction (to be specified in health and safety plans developed during design)
- Exactly how habitat will be restored after remediation (restoration of habitat substrate is assumed and compensation for habitat lost during remedial construction is calculated for cost estimation purposes)
- A detailed evaluation of the Cooperating Parties Group's (CPG's) targeted remedy (because none has been submitted to EPA by the CPG)
- How the upper nine miles of the river or Newark Bay should be cleaned up.